

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1946.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending the 31st December, 1946.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, 4,666 Acres
Estimated resident population, mid-1946 15,910
Rateable value £81060 : 0 : 0
Sum realized by a penny rate £315 : 0 : 0
Number of inhabited houses about 4,630

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births {	Legitimate 287	146	141	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid 1946 20·6
	Illegitimate 42	27	15	
Stillbirths {	Legitimate 8	7	1	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 24·3
	Illegitimate 0	0	0	
Deaths	229	120	109	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population 14·3

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Deaths from puerperal causes—		
Puerperal sepsis ...	0	0
Other puerperal causes ...	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births ...	30·3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	15·15
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	15·15
Deaths from Cancers (all ages) ...	33
Deaths from measles (all ages) ...	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	4

In the Borough there is one School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, a General Hospital, an Infectious Diseases Hospital and an Orthopædic Clinic held bi-monthly at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital.

Excellent Motor Ambulance facilities are provided free of cost, whilst in needy cases, Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The duties connected with this are carried out by the M.O.H. who is a part time Officer, the Borough Surveyor, the Borough Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors, all full time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic is held weekly in Park Hall, Ruby Street, and is well attended.

WISBECH JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

A total of 121 cases were treated in the Wisbech Joint Board's Isolation Hospital—the main admissions being from the following districts:—

Diphtheria—

				Admissions.			Deaths.
Wisbech Borough	...	...	...	2	...	...	0
Marshland Rural District	...	...	...	3	...	...	0
Wisbech Rural District	...	...	...	0	...	...	0
March Urban District	...	...	...	3	...	...	0
Whittlesey Rural District	...	...	...	2	...	...	0
Thorney Rural	...	...	...	0	...	...	0

Scarlet Fever—

Wisbech Borough	...	...	...	12	...	...	0
Marshland Rural District	...	...	...	26	...	...	0
Wisbech Rural District	...	...	...	15	...	...	0
Whittlesey Rural District	19	0
March Urban District	2	0
Ely Urban	7	0

Erysipelas—

Wisbech Borough	2	0
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Notifiable Diseases during the Year—

				Total cases notified.			Deaths.
Small Pox	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	12	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	...	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	...	...	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	3	...	...	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	47	...	...	0
Cerebral & Spinal Fever	...	...	...	0	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	45	...	...	0

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.						Deaths.					
	Pulmonary.		...	Non-Pulmonary.		...	Pulmonary.		...	Non-Pulmonary.		...
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
1	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...
5	0	0	...	2	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...
15	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	1	...
25	0	0	...	0	0	..	0	0	...	0	0	...
35	0	2	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...
45	1	0	...	0	0	..	0	1	...	0	0	...
55	1	1	...	0	0	...	0	1	...	0	0	...
65 & over	0	3	...	0	0	...	1	0	...	0	0	...
	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	

I remain, Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1946

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
NENE QUAY, WISBECH.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1946, being my twenty-seventh Annual Report.

The report covers briefly the work carried out during the year and shows that regular attention is given to the many matters coming within the purview of my department and the accompanying summaries give the number of inspections made and the work executed under notice. It is gratifying to note that with few exceptions, the whole of the work has been executed after interviews or after service of informal notices, with the result that the time of the Public Health Committee has been saved in considering these matters and the work has progressed under amicable conditions.

Housing repairs are being proceeded with as fast as possible, but the scarcity of building materials renders the execution of this work very slow and although as will be seen from the summaries, some progress has been made, there is still a large accumulation of this work remaining to be dealt with. There is also the question of houses that are getting beyond repair. In these cases emergency repairs only are being asked for pending the time when the occupants can be re-housed and the houses demolished.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, has again been remarkably low. These cases have been investigated as they have occurred and disinfection has been immediately carried out.

Regular visits are paid to the various shops and stores where food is deposited or prepared for sale and where such foods are inspected. Daily visits are also paid to the Central Slaughter-houses in Bartlett's Yard for the purpose of inspecting carcasses of slaughtered animals. In September the Council resolved to apply the Slaughter of Animals Act to sheep, so that sheep are now stunned by the humane method. No difficulty has been experienced in applying this method and I am pleased to report that slaughtering generally is carried out in a workmanlike manner by men who take an interest in their job and the slaughterhouses are well kept. The following summaries contain details of foods condemned.

Rodent Control, which was added to the work of my department during last year has proceeded satisfactorily. The main sewers throughout the town have received two extensive treatments, and every man-hole has been baited at least four times. In addition block control including a complete survey of premises has been carried out, and the Council's refuse dump has been extensively treated. The following is an indication of the operations:—

Prebates laid	...	...	...	...	...	3,456
Poison baits laid	...	...	...	...	...	1,784
Bodies of rats recovered after poison	...	...	...	...	...	837
Bodies of rats recovered from traps	...	...	...	...	...	188
Estimated killed	...	...	...	...	...	11,197
Wasps nests destroyed by gas	..	...	...	...	...	16

The following licences and registrations have been issued:—

Licences to Slaughter or Stun Animals ...	20
Dealers Licences to sell T.T. Milk ..	5
Dealers Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk ...	1
Knackers Yard Licence	1
Camping Licences	3
Gangmaster's Licences	24
Registrations of Food Preparing Premises ...	2

SUMMARIES.

INSPECTION OF PREMISES.

Inspections under Public Health Acts	414
Inspections under Housing Acts	259
Inspections after Infectious Diseases	17
Inspections of Factories	38
Inspections of Workshops and Bakehouses ..	23
Inspections of Shops and Food Stores	103
Inspections of Slaughter-houses	427
Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	38
Inspections of Common Lodging Houses	14
Inspections of Works in progress ..	434
Re-inspections as to compliance with notices ...	62
Complaints investigated	324
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases ...	19
Houses treated for vermin	5
Smoke and water tests applied to drains ...	45

WORK CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICES AND UNDER SUPERVISION.

DRAINAGE.

New pipe drains provided	32
Drains repaired and cleansed	55
New ventilation pipes provided	5
Waste pipes trapped... ..	17
Inspection chambers built on drains	39
Cesspools emptied	25
New cesspools built	1

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

New water-closets provided	9
Closets repaired	21
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s	27
Privies converted into water-closets	1

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Factories provided with sufficient Sanitary Accommodation... ..	2
Factories provided with improved Sanitary Accommodation... ..	5
Workshops provided with sufficient Sanitary Accommodation... ..	1
Workshops provided with improved Sanitary Accommodation... ..	1
Workshops cleansed and limewashed	1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Houses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	37
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses provided with new sinks	...	...	...	...	...	9
Yards repaved...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Accumulations of refuse removed...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	2

FOOD.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED.

Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	1,652
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	2,651
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	1,167
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	183
						<hr/> 5,653 <hr/>

ARTICLES CONDEMNED.

FRESH MEAT.

Whole carcasses of Beef	...	...	...	29
„ „ „ Pork	...	...	...	30
„ „ „ Mutton	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ Veal	...	...	...	5
Part Carcasses of Beef	...	...	...	81
„ „ „ Pork	...	...	...	20
„ „ „ Mutton	...	...	...	4
Ox Livers (whole)	...	...	...	246
„ „ (part)	...	...	...	166
„ Offals (complete)	...	...	...	42
„ Lungs	...	...	...	96
„ Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	80
„ Spleens	...	...	...	66
„ Hearts	...	...	...	5
Pig's Plucks	...	...	...	66
„ Heads	...	...	...	7
„ Livers	...	...	...	27
Sheep's Plucks	...	...	...	26
„ Heads	...	...	...	18
„ Livers	...	...	...	6
Calf's Heads	...	...	...	4
„ Plucks	...	...	...	5

CAUSES FOR CONDEMNATION.

Tuberculosis	...	...	22,036
Cirrhosis	...	...	1,868
Inflammation	...	...	532
Swine Fever	...	...	603
Bruised	...	...	808
Pyæmia	...	...	1,338
Dropsey	...	...	1,942
Emaciation	...	...	93
Congestion	...	...	267
C. Angioma	...	...	210

CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION—continued.

Septicæmia	...	...	103
Actinomycosis...	...	...	58
Degeneration	...	...	385
Parasites	...	...	169
Erysipelas	...	...	198
Fibrosis	...	...	107
Jaundice	...	...	188
Decomposition...	...	...	799
Bone Taint	...	...	102

31,806 lbs.

Or 14 tons 3 cwts. 3 qrs. 26 lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

Frozen Meat	...	...	...	74 lbs.
Dried Fish...	...	...	...	268 „
Fresh Fish	...	...	...	558 „ 8 ozs.

TINNED FOODS.

Preserves	...	...	...	11
Cocoa	...	...	...	2
Prepared Food	...	...	...	113
Fish	...	...	...	220
Corned Beef	...	...	...	342
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	20
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	2
M. and V. Ration	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	478
Corned Mutton	...	...	...	18
Vegetables	...	...	...	195
Chopped Ham	...	...	...	1
Soup	...	...	...	26
Fruit	...	...	...	46
Brisket Beef	...	...	...	1
Sausage Meat	...	...	...	1

Total 1,477 tins

JARS.

Honey	...	...	...	Jars
Fish Paste	...	...	...	3
Preserves	...	...	...	2
	...	...	...	20

Total 25 jars

PACKETS.

Prepared Food	...	...	...	pkts.
Flour	...	...	...	34
Cereals	...	...	...	299
Egg Substitute	...	...	...	61
Breakfast Food	...	...	...	35
Dessert Moulds	...	...	...	156
	...	...	...	198

Total 783

VARIOUS OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

Margarine	...	...	...	504 lbs. 0 ozs.
Fish	...	...	...	48 lbs. 0 ozs.
Cheese	...	...	...	174 lbs. 2 ozs.
Tea	...	...	...	7 lbs. 0 ozs.
Sugar	...	...	...	8 lbs. 0 ozs.
Bacon	...	...	...	7 lbs. 6 ozs.
Butter	...	...	...	93 lbs. 15 ozs.
Peas	...	...	...	168 lbs. 0 ozs.
Eggs	...	...	...	99

I have the honour to be Lady and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. J. SUTCLIFFE, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.